

RECKLESS RALPH'S

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 21 No. 2

February 1953

Whole Number 245

**NEW**  
**NICK CARTER**  
**LIBRARY**

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1926 by Street & Smith, in the office of the Librarian of Congress, Washington, D. C.  
Entered as second class matter of the Post Office, N. Y., Post Office.  
Subscription price, \$2.50 per year.

No. 1. STREET & SMITH, Publishers. NEW YORK. 20 West 57th St., N. Y. 5 Cents.

**THE GOLD MINE CASE.**  
**OR, HOW CHICK'S SON BECAME A DETECTIVE.**

BY THE AUTHOR OF  
"NICK CARTER"



## MORE ABOUT THE NICK CARTER LIBRARIES

By J. Edward Leithead

When my article, **NICK CARTER IN PRINT**, was published in the October 1947 issue of **DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP**, I received a surprising and very gratifying number of pleased comments from readers, and two of them, Ralph P. Smith and W. M. Burns also cleared up something that had always puzzled me—just where the Nick Carter short stories reprinted in Magnet Library had first been published.

Take, for instance, Magnet Library #89, *The Detective's Pretty Neighbor*. The short which gives the volume of ten stories its title was first printed in the New York Weekly under date of September 1, 1894. There were over a hundred of these Nick Carter short stories published during a period of more than two years, supposed to run weekly, but skipping about six or eight issues, usually with a note of apology from the editor for the omission.

The last one was printed in the New York Weekly issue of October 31, 1896, titled, *The Vice-Consul's Adventure*. Never having examined a copy of Magnet #93, *Adventures of Harrison Keith, Detective*, I can't say for sure but it's possible that some of those Nick Carter shorts in the New York Weekly were used as the basis of the shorts in #93, with Keith's name replacing Carter's. On the oth-

er hand, they may have been entirely new stories and by Frederick W. Davis, as I've heard that Harrison Keith was his creation.

It seems that the three original Nick Carters by John Russell Coryell—*The Old Detective's Pupil*, *A Wall Street Haul*, *Fighting Against Millions*—weren't the only Nick Carter serials to appear in New York Weekly. Between April 30, 1904 and October 8, 1904, these three Nick Carter serials were published: *A Dead Witness*, *With Links of Steel*, *Under a Black Veil*. *A Dead Witness* was reissued in Magnet #287, but not, curiously enough, as a Nick Carter—I wonder why? *With Links of Steel*, reprinted in Magnet #392 and #1164, remained a Nick Carter story; and so did *Under a Black Veil*, reprinted in Magnet #398, just the once.

Regarding my list of Nick Carter Detective Tales in Magnet and New Magnet Library, published in the May 1950 issue of **DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP**, there are questions in the Newsy News column of the May 1951 issue about certain numbers not included in the list and others marked "New, not reprinted". I haven't copies of the following Magnet books to check against, though I've seen them in the past, and as there was no mention of Nick, Chick, Patsy or Ida Jones, I concluded they weren't Nick Carters—I'm referring to nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 16, 73, 191. If I'm mistaken, I'd like to know, so as to keep my records straight:

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Vol. 21, No. 2

February 1953

Whole Number 245

Published Monthly at  
821 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas

Edited by  
Edward T. LeBlanc, 36 Taylor St., Fall River, Mass.

Assistant Editor  
Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Lawrence, Kansas

Price \$2.00 per year

Ad Rates — 6c per word, \$1.00 per inch, quarter page \$2.25, half page \$3.00 and Full Page \$5.00. — 4 times for the price of three.



#1, reprinted as #925, A Klondike Claim. Maybe it's a Trim Carter (Chick's son) item, as two or three of the earliest nos. of Nick Carter Weekly were about Trim in the frozen north. If so, of course it belongs on the Nick Carter list.

#3, reprinted as #931, A Titled Counterfeiter. Is this another Trim Carter item, reprinted from early nos. of Nick Carter Weekly?

#5, reprinted as #942, The Crime of a Countess. Trim Carter again? Not Nick and Chick anyway.

#7, reprinted as #950, The American Marquis. Trim Carter item? "By Nicholas Carter" on the cover of the book didn't always indicate it was about Nick.

#8, reprinted as #964, An Australian Klondike. Could be a Trim Carter item, as Trim was in Australia in early nos. of Nick Carter Weekly.

#16, reprinted as #968, A Woman's Hand. Trim Carter item?

#73, reprinted as #976, Two Plus Two. Trim Carter item?

#191, reprinted as #1058, The Murray Hill Mystery. Trim Carter or Patsy Murphy item? If either, belongs on Nick Carter list.

#413, The Four-fingered Glove was listed as reprint #1163, but should be #1170—my error.

#415, reprinted as #1166, The Key Ring Clew. This is Nick Carter, all right, and was omitted in error.

#417, reprinted as #1163, A Victim of Deceit. Nick Carter, sure. Omitted in error.

#485, reprinted as #1028, The Crimson Clew. Not about Nick Carter or any of his assistants. A Bert Cromwell story, I think, by Inspector Stark, in the original issue, but reprinted in error as "By Nicholas Carter".

#516, reprinted as #1054, The Human Fiend. Nick Carter again. Omitted in error.

Between New Magnet #530 and #849 I've listed (in ROUNDUP) some 109 titles as "New" and "New, not reprinted." I was personally acquainted with W. Bert Foster, one-time Street & Smith staff writer, as I've stated in other ROUNDUP ar-

ticles. We were both contributing stories regularly to the Clayton group of magazines at the time we first met and I had a standing invitation to drop in any time I was in New York. I'm not sure when or where he was born, but I think it was a Mid-Western town, and he was about 70 when he passed away at Fort Lee, N. J. in the early '30s. He was a big man, not much under six feet, I'd say; was smooth-shaven and wore glasses. He had a very genial nature, was a born story-writer and used to write the first draft of a story in long-hand, resting the paper on a drawing-board supported by the arms of his chair. The story was then typed, and he went over it again to make corrections and changes, if any, then a final typewritten copy was made. Usually he wore a green eyeshade while he worked. He used several pseudonyms, as well as his own name, for his magazine and book output, among them "Jared L. Fuller", "John Eoyd Clark" and "James A. Couper". Foster wrote a long time for Street & Smith and of course he knew most of that publishing firm's other writers. He told me he had written many of the New Magnet "Nick Carters" I listed as "new", and a lot of other new ones were authored by Frederick W. Davis (who, with Frederick Van Rensselaer Dey, was one of the most prolific writers of detective stories on the S. & S. staff), some by William Perry Brown (one of his was New Magnet #671, Nick Carter's Persistence), some by Eugene T. Sawyer (said to have written nearly 300 Nick Carters, many of them 50,000 words long, or about the length of some New Magnet Library novels).

Before preparing my list of Magnet and New Magnet "Nick Carters", I had heard, just once and I forget how the information came to me, that some of the later New Magnet "Nicks" were reprints of Sexton Blake stories, but I had no copies of Union Jack Library to check against.

Starting with New Magnet #850, Wanted: a Clew, this is a reprint of three numbers from Nick Carter Stories. Except for the first three is-



sues of this weekly, by Dey, I believe most of the new stories in it were by Frederick W. Davis. #4, 5 and 6 were reprints from Nick Carter Weekly, #7, 8 and 9 were new, and the rule of three new, followed by three reprints, then three new again, was kept up until #85, The Wolf Within, was reached. From there on the stories were new, the last one, #160, being The Yellow Label, actually the first long instalment of a Nick Carter serial and continued in Detective Story Magazine. The complete story was later reprinted in New Magnet #977, reprinted again in #1352.

Here are more Nick Carters above #850 which were reprinted from Nick Carter Stories (three N. C. S. to a volume: Nos. 857, 863, 869, 873, 877, 881, 885, 889, 893, 898, 902, 906, 910, 914, 918, 922, 926, 930, 951, 955, 957, 959, 961, 963, 965, 967, 969, 971, 973, 975, 977.

The following New Magnets were reprinted from earlier numbers:

No.	Reprint of No.	No.	Reprint of No.
925	1	987	12
928	2	988	85
931	3	990	21
938	87	991	83
940	4	992	10
942	5	994	81
944	91	995	77
946	6	996	46
948	95	998	108
950	7	999	79
952	11	1000	114
954	10	1002	126
956	13	1003	147
958	62	1004	14
960	17	1006	135
962	59	1007	129
964	8	1008	144
966	68	1010	18
968	16	1011	19
970	56	1012	39
972	71	1014	49
974	53	1015	174
976	73	1016	65
978	75	1018	89
980	99	1019	205
982	9	1020	97
983	23	1022	105
984	120	1023	209
986	150	1024	111

Beginning with #1026, all were reprints from Magnet and New Magnet, so no use in listing the titles further. I give herewith a list of the other issues between #850 and 1025, and comparison of the two lists narrows down the number of possible Sexton Blake reprints to the following numbers: 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 870, 871, 872, 874, 875, 876, 873, 879, 880, 882, 883, 884, 886, 887, 888, 890, 891, 892, 894, 895, 896, 897, 899, 900, 901, 903, 904, 905, 907, 908, 909, 911, 912, 913, 915, 916, 917, 919, 920, 921, 923, 924, 927, 929, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 939, 941, 943, 945, 947, 949, 953, 979, 981, 985, 989, 993, 997, 1001, 1005, 1009, 1013, 1017, 1021, 1025.

I've made an extensive study of the Nick Carter saga and would like to know just how many of these are Sexton Blake's to correct my records. I have an idea that some of these stories may be Old Broadbrim Weekly reprints. I think it was in The Door of Doubt (#884) that a chapter was headed, The Bats of Baltimore, and Old Broadbrim #4 was Old Broadbrim's Crimson Knot, or, The Bats of Baltimore. I may be mistaken about its being The Door of Doubt volume, but I saw this chapter heading in some number above #850 and it's hardly a coincidence, more likely a clue to the original source of this novel and maybe others. Old Broadbrim first appeared in Old Cap Collier Library. There were 51 issues of the colored cover Weekly with the old detective's name in the title; with #52 it changed to Young Broadbrim and ran for 29 nos., ending with #80.

Since Street & Smith reprinted the Shield Weekly in its entirety, 22 issues, in Magnet Library #224, Played to a Finish, #230, A Race for Ten Thousand, #232, The Red Signal, #234, The Tell-tale Photographs, #236, A Move in the Dark, #238, The Claws of the Tiger, #244, A Trusted Rogue, #274, Paid With Death (reprinting all of them again in later nos. of New Magnet), making the necessary changes for Nick and his assistants, Chick, Ida Jones, Bob



Ferret and Jack Burton to take the places of Sheridan Keene and other detectives in Shield, it's quite possible that all 51 issues of Old Broadbrim—and perhaps the 29 issues of Young Broadbrim, too—were re-written to appear as Nick Carter tales. Three issues of Old Broadbrim Weekly, in fact, had Nick and the Quaker detective working together: #46, Old Broadbrim Leagued With Nick Carter, #47, Old Broadbrim's Clew from the Dead, #48, Old Broadbrim in a Deep Sea Struggle.

Street & Smith, being a highly reputable publishing house, would be very careful of the source of its material. There must have been some mutually agreeable arrangement between Street & Smith and the Amalgamated Press, publishers of the Union Jack Library, whereby the reprinting of Sexton Blake stories as Nick Carters was permitted, for Street & Smith had used Sexton Blake stories sometime before any of them appeared in New Magnet. I'm referring to the Gordon Keith series which ran all through the Brave and Bold Weekly. The first was #159, That Boy, Checkers (Checkers was Keith's assistant, actually Sexton Blake's assistant, Tinker, re-named—and Keith was Blake, the author given as "Lawrence White, Jr."), #168, The African Trail, #172, Under Many Suns, #181, The Lost Chief, #184, On Sampan and Junk, #188, Tracked Across Europe, #206, The Sky Smugglers, #210, Gordon Keith in Java, #214, On the Pampas, #232, In the Land of the Slave Hunters, #236, To Unknown Lands, #240, Among the Witch-doctors, #251, The Red Wafer, #258, Gordon Keith, Magician, #262, Gordon Keith's Double, #266, Gordon Keith, Whaler, #270, Gordon Keith, Lumber-jack, #274, Far Below the Equator, #278, Among the Arab Slave Raiders, #282, Gordon Keith, Diver Detective, #286, The Road to Fez, #298, The Thumb-print Clue, #316, The House of Fear, #326, Gordon Keith in Zululand, #330, Gordon Keith Under African Skies, #346, Comrades Three, #368, Sparkling Plunder, #373, The Air-

ship Destroyer, #379, The Trail Over Seas, #385, A Dash Into Mystery. There was one number of Brave and Bold where, although Keith's name was used in the story, Sexton Blake's name appeared in the excerpt below the picture on the cover.

I still believe some of the New Magnets above #850 may be entirely new stories. I remember reading one, #936, The Case of Many Clews, I think it was, in which Nick Carter's entire household was involved in the course of the story: Nick himself, Chick, Patsy, Ida Jones, even Joseph, the butler. Maybe this was reprinted from Sexton Blake, but, as I recall it, it certainly read like a brand-new Nick Carter tale.

As to the series of Harrison Keith stories which began in New Magnet with #489, Harrison Keith, Sleuth (the volume of shorts about him in Magnet #93 has been mentioned at the beginning of this article), the book-length novel which introduced him again for a long run was made up of a couple of reprints from Nick Carter Weekly, #463, The Millionaire Cracksman and #464, The Mystery Man, Nick and his assistants being replaced by Harrison Keith and his assistants, Dick Rogers, Mike Donovan and Hans Brinkerman. There may have been a few unidentified reprints (but not from Nick Carters that I'm aware of) among the dozen or so following #489, but after that, probably all are new, for W. Bert Foster told me that he and Frederick W. Davis wrote most of the series. Two of Foster's, as I recall, were #593, Harrison Keith's Battle of Nerve and #611, Harrison Keith's Mummy Mystery. One volume of New Magnet, evidently written as a Harrison Keith, but changed to a Nick Carter before publication (a new story, of course) was #663, Nick Carter's Convict Client. The proof-reader let Keith's name slip by him once at least in changing over to a Nick Carter tale.

One thing is certain, whoever owns a set of Magnet and New Magnet, from No. 1 to 1025, has one of the best libraries of detective stories ever published.



## BUCKSKIN

by C. D. Randolph (Buckskin Bill)

Here are the Scouts of the Wild West plains who rode under the titles of Buckskin:

Major Samuel Stone Hall—"Buckskin Sam".

John W. Russell, "Buckskin Jack".

John Thomas Spaulding, "Buckskin Johnnie".

Then there was Buckskin Mose whose real identity I never could learn and last of all, Charles D. Randolph, "Buckskin Bill"—"Poet of the Plains."

## ADVICE TO COLLECTORS

by Charles Bragin

**SPEND WISELY.** A small amount of money on a **PLANNED COLLECTION** will bring the best results in pleasure—and profit.

**DO NOT** spend large sums of money for large lots of unrelated items—that would result, not in a collection, but a "job lot" of little value.

Here are some plans used by dime novel collectors:

1. Collect one each of all dime novel publications—this makes the most interesting collection for the smallest amount of money.
2. Collect publications of personal interest—your boyhood favorite "Weeklies" and build up complete sets of same.
3. Collect a few novels of each of the dime novel writers.
4. Collect all the novels written by some favorite writers—Ingraham, Patten, Buntline, Wheeler, etc., etc.
5. Collect dime novels relating to some favorite hero — Deadwood Dick, Diamond Dick, Buffalo Bill, the James Boys, the Western Scouts, Merriwell, etc., etc.
6. Collect dime novels relating to **LOCALITY**—your State, etc., etc. This plan is widely used by Libraries from Coast to Coast.
7. Collect items covering some favorite **SUBJECT**—for example baseball men collect dime novels relating to that sport (Judge

Bramham presented a fine collection of same to the Cooperstown Hall of Fame)—the President of an Insurance Company collects "fire fighting" dime novels — a leading undertaker collects dime novels with "graveyard scenes"—Airplane Company executives collect "airship" dime novels—circus fans collect dime novels about the circus — sleuth story collectors like Ellery Queen collect "detective dime novels"—etc., etc.

Choose a plan that appeals to you personally, that will give you the most pleasure—and confine your buying to same—and it will result in a valuable **COLLECTION**, besides giving 100% enjoyment!

## RECENT RENEWALS AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP LIST

128. Morris Brauner, 632 W. Montgomery Ave., Philadelphia 22, Pa.
152. Roy E. Morris, 901 E. Michigan Ave., Orlando, Florida.

(Advertisements)

## EXCHANGES COLUMN

My advertisement in the preceding number of the Round-up still holds. Albert Johannsen, Box 566, Winter Park, Florida.

Wanted: Motor Stories. Have Automobile Lillian, The Daring Girl Bandit of Arizona, by Edward Von Castleburg for sale. Chet L. Swital, 415 No. Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, Cal.

Wanted: Boys of England Vols. 14, 26, 31, 32, 37, 59 and 61. A. W. Lawson, London, England. Please send offers and condition to Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

Dime Novel Round-ups Nos. 1 to 236 for sale at 12 for \$2.00, cash or trade. Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

Wanted — Cloth bound Merriwell books. Also Pluck and Luck and many other weeklies and boy's papers. Also Argosy Magazine. Samuel Olmhausen, 824 Chester Ave., East Liverpool, Ohio.



Mr. William Langell writes in that "The Life of Pat F. Garrett and the Taming of the Border Outlaw", by John Milton Scanland, originally published in 1908 has been reprinted and can be obtained from J. J. Lipry, Rare Books, 1920 Pinegrove, Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, Colorado, at \$2.00 per copy. It has cardboard covers with a picture of Garrett on the front cover, 42 pages and is an exact reproduction made from ones of the two known original copies.

Want ADVENTURE MAGS, 1932 to 1938. Containing stories by Hugh Pendexter, \$3.00 for Novelettes, \$10 for Serials. Mags in poor condition O. K.

R. C. Bayless

1021 Archer St., San Diego 9, Calif.

### THOUSANDS OF NOVELS WANTED

Send list, description and price.

George T. Flaum

P. O. Box 4041, St. Petersburg, Fla.

### NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

By the time you members get the Roundup with this news in it, Christmas and New Years will be pretty well over for another year. As I write this, I am listening to the Christmas carols, which I do like very much. Thanks for all greeting cards sent me, of which I wish all the best new year ever in health, wealth and everything.

Bill Burns now has the complete set of Capt. F. C. Brereton's book, of 48 numbers. It is believed to be the only set in the U. S. A., although Bro. Cline of Denver, Colo. isn't far behind. This is a very scarce English author, and he sure wrote some very fine tales, such as "Kidnapped by Moor's", "Under the Chinese Dragon," "The Hero of Panama," and other fine ones.

A bookstore in Hillsboro, Va., is asking \$3.00 each for Buffalo Bill Border Stories. Think they'll get it?

## SEND YOUR WANT LIST

Old Sleuth Library  
Happy Days

Beadle's Fireside Library  
Tip Top

Secret Service  
Nick Carter Weekly (small)

## THINK THIS OVER

Ivers' Edition of Beadles' Boys Library. Bound volume.

All the Deadwood Dick, Sr., Novels in Beadles' Half Dime. Bound Vol.

MAKE AN OFFER

## SPECIAL NOTICE

Last month some of my mail was confused at the postoffice. A man of similar name left for another City, and subsequently moved again. Some of my mail was returned to sender marked "left no address" even though correctly addressed to my Box Number. If this happened to you, please write again. Same place for 40 years.

**RALPH P. SMITH**

Box 985

Lawrence, Mass.



# FOR SALE

- VIRGIN LAND, by Henry Nash Smith, Harvard University Press. The American West as Symbol and Myth. This sure is a fine book. Two-thirds of it is on the old dime and nickel novels and is worthy of anyone's collection. Illustrated. Price ----- \$4.75
- THE GREAT RASCAL, by Jay Monaghan, 1951. The Biography of Ned Buntline, King of Dime Novelists and the promoter of Buffalo Bill, illustrated ----- Price \$4.50
- JESSE JAMES WAS MY NEIGHBOR, by Homer Croy, 1949, another fine book, illustrated ----- Price \$3.50
- BRITISH CIRCUS LIFE, by Lady Eleanor Smith and John Hinde, 1948. A very fine book on the circus over in England and many colored plates too, very interesting of the real circus ----- \$3.00
- MR. FRANK MERRIWELL, by Gilbert Patten (Burt L. Standish) 1941. The author of Frank and Dick Merriwell stories in Tip Top Weekly, Medal and Merriwell Series and others ----- \$3.00
- THE FEMININE FIFTIES, by Fred L. Pattee, 1940. This is a biography of the women writers, who wrote for the New York Ledger and other papers such as Ann Stephens, Jenny Lind, Augustus Wilson, Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., and others. Illustrated ----- \$2.00
- BOYS WILL BE BOYS, by E. S. Turner, 1948. The story of Sweeney Todd, Deadwood Dick, Sexton Blake, Billy Bunter, Dick Barton, etc. Illustrated ----- \$3.00
- THE TROJAN BROTHERS, by P. H. Johnson, 1945. This is a novel of love and jealousy set against a music hall background in London in the 20's ----- \$1.25
- JACK JOHNSON, in the Ring and Out, by Jack Johnson, 1927. Illustrated (former World's Heavy Weight Champion) ----- \$2.50
- HEY THERE, SUCKER, by Jack Dadswell, 1946. A fine book on the Circus, carnivals, shows, etc. Illustrated ----- \$2.50
- RHYMES FROM NEW ENGLAND, by George D. Rhodes, 1947. Rhymes such as Maple Sugar Time, Up in the Attic, An Abandoned Farm, Cape Cod, and many others. ----- .50
- WHO'S WHO IN RAILROADING ----- 2.00

All for \$30.00

All are new books and will make very fine Christmas presents. Many of them are scarce, as I only have a few left, get your order in early.

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.